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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/342,017	06/28/1999	MARTIN LAUER	2565/56	5940

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EXAMINER

HAYES, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3763

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2001

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/342,017

Applicant(s)

LAUER, MARTIN

Examiner

Michael J Hayes

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 June 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 24 September 2001 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. While applicant may be his or her own lexicographer, a term in a claim may not be given a meaning repugnant to the usual meaning of that term. See *In re Hill*, 161 F.2d 367, 73 USPQ 482 (CCPA 1947). The term "conduit" in claims 1-17 is used by the claim to mean the open area within a tube, while the accepted meaning is the tube structure itself (i.e., a lumen is formed by a conduit).

4. Claims 1 and 17 recite that the sealing part does not contact the conduit. As Applicant is using conduit as an area it is not clear what Applicant intends as not contacting an area. No element can contact an area.

5. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the connection" in line 7. Claim 17 recites "the second connector element" in line 5 and "throughout the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-3, 7-13, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by CHALLENGER et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,492,147). Challenger discloses a connector element having a locked sealing part 46 with a cylindrical shell and membrane that moves but does not contact the fluid lumen nor conduit when in an open or closed position, an outer socket connector having an opening element 44, an inner socket connector 28/31, housing 51, and a shut off element 32 that is opened by a penetration body 23 (Fig. 1). Re claim 17 Challenger discloses that neither sealing part of the first connector 94 nor the sealing part of the second connector 46 contacts the fluid lumen. Both sealing parts are movable with respect to their respective conduit lumen as the membrane bursts to open. The inner socket connector 31 of the first connector 10 forms a continuous conduit with the inner socket connector 65 when the connectors are joined. During joining the penetration body 23 of the first connector opens shut off elements 32, 70 of the first and second connector elements.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 4, 5, 6, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CHALLENGER. Challenger discloses the claimed invention except for a slit in the sealing part,

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membrane of silicone, a conduit for carrying fluid defined by the inner socket connector, or an injection molded membrane. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use one element where Challenger discloses two elements (penetration body and inner socket connector) because making integral that which was in two pieces is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. The use of silicone as material for membranes and having a slitted membrane to facilitate opening (as in shut off elements 32, 70) are notoriously well-known in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

11. Some of Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Other arguments are addressed below.

12. Applicant argues that the sealing part disclosed by Challenger does not move relative to the conduit. The examiner does not agree because clearly the sealing part moves as it is broken open as shown in figs. 2-4.

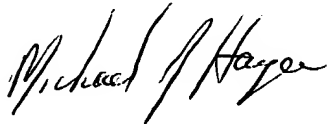
13. Applicant argues that Challenger discloses a sealing part that contacts a conduit in contradiction to limitations claimed. The examiner agrees that shut element 32/70 contacts the conduit. However the sealing parts 46, 94 do not contact the conduit and the claims read on the

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prior art.

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Hayes at (703) 305-5873. The examiner can usually be reached Monday -Thursday, 7:00-4:30, and on alternate Fridays. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes, can be contacted at (703) 308-5181. The fax number for submitting official papers is (703) 872-9302. The fax number for submitting after final papers is (703) 872-9303.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Hayes
14 December 2001

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)
6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.